

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

first input means for inputting first data
created by predetermined application software;

5 second input means for inputting second data
converted into image data of a predetermined format on
the basis of the first data;

registration means for registering the first and
second data in a database in correspondence with a
10 specific index;

output means for outputting either of the first
and second data which are registered in the database;

designation means for designating an output
method by said output means;

15 index input means for inputting information
representing the index; and

control means for so controlling as to select
either of the first and second data on the basis of the
output method designated by said designation means and
20 the information which is input by said index input
means and represents the index, and cause said output
means to output the selected data in accordance with
the output method.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

25 the apparatus further comprises printing means
for printing an image obtained by synthesizing the
information representing the index and the second data

input by said second input means, and

said index input means inputs the information representing the index by reading, by a reading device, the image which is obtained by synthesizing the information representing the index and the data input by said second input means and is printed by said printing means.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the information representing the index is expressed by a barcode.

4. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the information representing the index is expressed by a character string.

5. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the information representing the index is expressed by each character spacing in a predetermined character string.

6. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said output means includes said printing means, and

when the output method designated by said designation means is printed by said printing means, said control means so controls as to select the second data and cause said printing means to print an image based on the second data.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises transmission means for transmitting data as one of said output

means, and

when the output method designated by said designation means is transmission by said transmission means, said control means so controls as to cause said transmission means to transmit the first data.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the database is constructed by a terminal connected via a network.

9. An image processing method comprising:

10 a first input step of inputting first data created by predetermined application software;

a second input step of inputting second data converted into image data of a predetermined format on the basis of the first data;

15 a registration step of registering the first and second data in a database in correspondence with a specific index;

a designation step of designating an output method of the data registered in the database;

20 an index input step of inputting information representing the index; and

an output step of selecting either of the first and second data on the basis of the output method designated in the designation step and the information which is input in the index input step and represents the index, and outputting the selected data in accordance with the output method.

10. A program which causes a computer to execute
a first input step of inputting first data
created by predetermined application software,
a second input step of inputting second data
5 converted into image data of a predetermined format on
the basis of the first data,
a registration step of registering the first and
second data in a database in correspondence with a
specific index,
10 a designation step of designating an output
method of the data registered in the database,
an index input step of inputting information
representing the index, and
an output step of selecting either of the first
15 and second data on the basis of the output method
designated in the designation step and the information
which is input in the index input step and represents
the index, and outputting the selected data in
accordance with the output method.
- 20 11. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a
program for causing a computer to execute
a first input step of inputting first data
created by predetermined application software,
a second input step of inputting second data
25 converted into image data of a predetermined format on
the basis of the first data,
a registration step of registering the first and

second data in a database in correspondence with a
specific index,

a designation step of designating an output
method of the data registered in the database,

5 an index input step of inputting information
representing the index, and

an output step of selecting either of the first
and second data on the basis of the output method
designated in the designation step and the information
10 which is input in the index input step and represents
the index, and outputting the selected data in
accordance with the output method.